

In the Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A device for generating a medium stream, which device comprises a chamber, which chamber comprises chamber walls lying opposite one another and at least one medium opening for the medium stream and is equipped with a diaphragm means, which diaphragm means is provided and constructed for generating the medium stream and which diaphragm means, in an inactive operating state of the device, is arranged substantially untensioned in the chamber between the chamber walls and associated with which diaphragm means are drive means, responsive to electrical drive signals, for driving the diaphragm means to deform the same, the drive means being arranged to impose a deformation on the diaphragm means to generate sound in an active operating state of the device, during which deformation the diaphragm means have an inner mechanical tension.
2. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the drive means comprise electrodes arranged on the chamber walls lying opposite one another, further including a control signal source configured to apply a voltage to the electrodes in a manner that deforms the diaphragm to generate sound.
3. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the diaphragm means comprises a metal foil.
4. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the diaphragm means comprises a foil made of a dielectric material.
5. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the diaphragm means consists at least partly of piezoelectric material.
6. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the diaphragm means comprises an electrode.
7. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the diaphragm means

comprises two end regions provided a distance apart from one another, which end regions are fixed in the chamber.

8. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the drive means contain an electromechanical drive element, and the diaphragm means has an end portion that is connected to the electromechanical drive element.
9. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the chamber is of substantially cuboidal construction and comprises two end walls lying opposite one another.
10. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the chamber comprises at least two medium openings provided spaced apart from one another.
11. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the diaphragm means has an at least substantially constant thickness.
12. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the diaphragm means is fixed with two opposing end regions to the end walls of the essentially cuboidal chamber.
13. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the drive means are designed to impose a deformation having at least a pre-determinable frequency.
14. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the drive means are designed to impose a cyclic deformation in the form of a traveling wave on the diaphragm means, to generate a sound wave corresponding to the traveling wave.
15. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the diaphragm means is fixed with one end region close to one end of the cuboidal chamber to the one chamber wall of the mutually opposed chamber walls and with an opposite end region

close to the opposite end of the chamber to the other chamber wall of the mutually opposed chamber walls.

16. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the diaphragm means comprises a transition portion extending in operation substantially at right angles to the chamber walls lying opposite one another.

17. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 15, wherein medium openings are provided at both ends of the chamber.

18. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which device the medium stream is a stream of a gaseous medium.

19. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, which is provided for the generation of sound by means of the medium stream generated, in response to electrical sound-driver signals applied to the drive means by a controller.

20. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, which is provided as pump device for the medium stream.

21. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a number of chambers are provided in the device, which chambers are arranged in one unit.

22. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the diaphragm means and/or the chamber walls have an insulating layer.

23. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the diaphragm means and/or the chamber walls have a structured surface.

24. (Previously presented) A device for generating a medium stream including sound waves, the device comprising:

a chamber having chamber walls lying opposite one another and at least one medium opening therebetween for passing a medium stream;

a diaphragm and extending laterally between the opposing chamber walls, the diaphragm being substantially untensioned in the chamber between the chamber walls in an inactive state;

electrodes on each of the opposing chamber walls and responsive to electrical drive signals by imposing a deformation on the diaphragm in an active operating state of the device, during which deformation the diaphragm has an inner mechanical tension, the deformation causing fluid flow in the chamber in a direction that is about parallel to the chamber walls to generate sound that is audible by a human ear.

25. (Previously presented) The device of claim 24, wherein the electrodes are separate from and not in contact with the diaphragm.

26. (Previously presented) The device of claim 24, wherein the electrodes are arranged on the chamber walls and electrically coupled to apply an electric field signal to cyclically draw the diaphragm towards a first chamber wall and to repel the diaphragm from another chamber wall.